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Spanish Ex-Envoy Recalls Spy Role

Reuter

MADRID — A former Spanish diplomat said in an interview published yesterday that he directed an espionage network that spied for Japan in the United States during World War II.

Angel Alcazar de Velasco was quoted by the Madrid newspaper El Pais as saying that Gen. Francisco Franco, the late Spanish dictator, was informed daily and sometimes hourly of all his activities as head of the ring.

U.S. government documents made public earlier this month disclosed the existence of the Spanish ring, but the National Security Agency papers did not reveal the name of its chief. Alcazar, 69, said he was summoned to Madrid at the end of 1941 and told by a senior Japanese diplomat that Tokyo needed a man capable of mounting an espionage operation in the United States.